

Castro's 'Offer'

IT IS WISE not to look a gift horse in the mouth, says the proverb. Maybe. But it is certainly prudent to look searchingly for hidden motives behind ANY offer by ANY Communist ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

Such a look ought to be given the latest offer by Fidel Castro. According to an interview he granted a reporter of the New York Times, Castro said that Cuba would agree to withhold material support from revolutionary movements in Latin American countries if the United States would agree to end material support for subversive activity against Castro.

Any search for hidden motives must include the timing of the offer. It is made, significantly, before the July 21 meeting in Washington of foreign ministers of the Organization of American States.

The meeting will consider Venezuela's charge of subversive aggression against the Castro regime, based on discovery of a large cache of Cuban arms in Venezuela and a detailed battle plan for overthrowing the government by Venezuelan Castroites.

The chances are better than fair for passage of a tough resolution that would amend the Rio Treaty for Inter-American Defense so as to define that type of subversion as "armed aggression" by the nation fomenting it, and open the way for retaliatory action by the OAS.

Naturally, that's the last thing Castro wants. Therefore, it is a justified conclusion that he made his proposal to divert Latin American support from the OAS resolution.

That's no gift horse Castro is offering. Let's hope that our Administration and Latin American governments recognize it for the spavined nag that it is.